Sylvia Townsend Warner: A bibliography

Compiled by Janet Montefiore, Chair of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society

This bibliography draws on my earlier Sylvia Townsend Warner Scholarship 1978–2013: An Annotated Bibliography with Introduction (2014, Literature Compass online), which aimed to record all publications by and about Sylvia Townsend Warner since her death in 1978. For that, as with this much shorter bibliography for the Society’s new website, I have consulted Ray Russell’s comprehensive Sylvia Townsend Warner Bibliography, which comprises all the books by Sylvia Townsend Warner that were published during her lifetime. The 18-page bibliography which appears below is necessarily much more selective than either of its predecessors.

I thank Ray Russell for his generosity in sending me a copy of his bibliography in 2012 when it was still ‘work in progress’, and I am delighted to report that this has now appeared in print.

1. Poetry collections

1:i Collections published in STW’s lifetime

The Espalier (London: Chatto & Windus, 1924).

Time Importuned (London: Chatto & Windus, 1928).

Opus 7 (London: Chatto & Windus, 1931).

Whether a Dove or Seagull (with Valentine Ackland) (New York: Viking, 1933; London: Chatto & Windus, 1934).


1:ii Posthumous poetry collections


1:iii Poetry collections co-authored with or by Valentine Ackland

*Whether a Dove or Seagull* (with Valentine Ackland) (New York: Viking, 1933; London: Chatto & Windus, 1934). See 1:i.


Valentine Ackland, *Journey from Winter: Selected Poems*, Frances Bingham, ed. (Manchester: Carcanet, 2008). Contains the complete text of *Whether a Dove or Seagull*, which was not reprinted in either the *Collected* or *New Collected Poems*. 
1:iv Uncollected poems

Since 2000, many uncollected poems by STW and VA have appeared in the *Journal of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society* and the *Sylvia Townsend Warner Society Newsletter*. See my *Literature Compass* bibliography for details up to 2013.

2. Novels


3. **Short fiction**

3:i **Collections published in STW’s lifetime**


3:ii Posthumous story collections


Contains: A Saint (Unknown) with Two Donors, A Pair of Duelling Pistols, The Three Cats, Sopwith Hall, One Thing Leading to Another, Some Effects of a Hat, The Mahogany Table, The Sea is Always the Same, A Breaking Wave, A View of Exmoor, Chloroform for All, Mr Mackenzie’s Last Hour, I Met a Lady, A Widow’s Quilt, The Mother Tongue, The Proper Circumstances, Narrative of Events Preceding the Death of Queen Ermine, Queen Mousie, An Improbable Story, The Duke of Orkney’s Leonardo. (The last three are previously uncollected ‘Elfin’ stories.)


Contains: Love Green, A Bottle of Gum, Early One Morning, Over the Hill, I am come into my Garden, A Village Death, Folk Cookery, The Jenny Cat, Two Minutes Silence, Dieu et Mon Droit, If These Delights, The Family Revived, England, Home and Beauty, It’s What We’re Here For, Tebic, An Unimportant case, The Mothers, Rainbow Villa, Bow to the Rising Sun, The Proper Circumstances, Poor Mary, The Cold, English Climate, Mary Brice and Mrs Conway, Boors Carousing, Such a Wonderful Opportunity, A Breaking Wave, Evan, A Dressmaker, A Queen Remembered, Flora.

Of Cats and Elfins, Kate Macdonald, ed. (Bath: Handheld Press, 2019).


3:iii Single stories and short collections


4. Biographical writing

4:i Biographies by STW


4:ii Biographical essays by STW


5. **Essays, journalism and travel writing**

Much of STW’s journalism, short essays and reviews have been reprinted since 2000 in the *Journal of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society* and the *Sylvia Townsend Warner Newsletter*. In 2012, Peter Tolhurst collected many of these items in *With the Hunted: Selected Writings of Sylvia Townsend Warner*, on which I have largely based this section.

I have listed STW’s essays ‘Women as Writers’ and ‘The Historical Novel’ separately, despite their appearance in *With the Hunted*, because of their importance for STW scholarship. The
section also lists three essays by STW not collected by Peter Tolhurst, including ‘Man’s Moral Law’ (1932), ‘A Note on The Corner That Held Them’ (1948) and ‘Item, One Empty House’ (1966).

5: Books, edited collections and pamphlets by STW


5:ii Journalism, essays and travel articles

Peter Tolhurst’s With the Hunted provides an invaluable selection of STW’s essays, reviews and memoir pieces, giving dates and publication details for nearly all of them. It also includes extracts on Bath and Sedgemoor from STW’s travel book Somerset, four previously unpublished manuscript essays – ‘Wards of the People’, ‘A Class Distinction’, ‘Eliza Fay’ and ‘An Edinburgh Childhood’ – and three interviews with STW.

Because of the great interest of this compendious book, I have set out each section separately.

Contents (using Tolhurst’s section titles and my subheadings and dates):

STARTING OUT [memoirs]: The Way By Which I Have Come (1939), Memories of Laurel Lodge, Moth Hall and Fineshade Priory (1927), The Night Shift by a Lady Worker (1916), The Essex Marshes (2007), I Cook on Oil (1948), Bathrooms Remembered (1965).


5:iii Selected essays by STW


6. Memoirs and diaries

6:i Books


**Contains:** Wild Wales, Interval for Metaphysics, My Father My Mother the Butler the Builder the Expert and I, My Father My Mother the Poodle Lord Kitchener and the Mouse, The Young Sailor, The Poodle the Supernatural Mr. Wilson Mr. Tatos and My Mother, Shadows of Death, Fried Eggs are Mediterranean.


**Contains:** Wild Wales, The Poodle the Supernatural Mr. Wilson Mr. Tatos and My Mother, My Father My Mother the Butler the Builder the Poodle and I, My Father My Mother the Bentleys the Poodle Lord Kitchener and the Mouse, Interval for Metaphysics, Fried Eggs are Mediterranean, The Gorgeous West, The Cheese, Scenes of Childhood, How I Left the Navy, Madam Houdin, Siegfried on the Rhine, A Golden Legend, A Correspondence in The Times, The Young Sailor, The Golden Rose, Stanley Sherwood or The Fireman’s Revenge, Shadows of Death, A Winding Stair a Fox Hunt a Fulfilling Situation some Sycamores and the Church at Henning, My Mother Won the War, In Pimlico, Being a Lily, Battles Long Ago, Troublemaker, Deep in the Forest, Folk Cookery, Dieu et Mon Droit, A Queen Remembered.


**6:ii Short memoirs**


See also the autobiographical essays listed in 5: Journalism, essays and travel writing.


**7. Correspondence**

There are now four book-length collections of STW’s correspondence (Maxwell, 1982; Garnett, 1994; Pinney, 1998; Steinmann, 2001), as well as a short book of letters from STW to her young cousin (Monkton-How and Rutherford, 2011) and two correspondence collections in which STW features substantially (Hewett, 1984; Judd, 2013, 2017). Details of these are given below.

7:i Books of STW’s letters and correspondence


### 7.ii Letters printed in periodicals

Since 2000 when the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society was founded, the *Journal of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society* and the *Sylvia Townsend Warner Newsletter* have between them published far more letters from STW than I can list here. For full details of STW’s posthumously published correspondence up to 2013, see my *Literature Compass* bibliography. Below is a small selection.


8. Translations

8:i Translated Books


8:ii Shorter translations


9. Music and musicology

9:i Libretto


9:ii Articles


**10. Biographies and memoirs of STW and VA**

**10:i Books**


**10:ii Articles and essays**


11. Selected criticism of STW

11:i Books

No monograph has yet appeared on STW as a writer, although the biographies by Mulford (1988) and Harman (1990) – listed under 10: Biography and memoirs – contain excellent literary criticism, as does Granne’s new book (2020) on life-writing by STW and VA.


11:ii Essay collections


Alex Murray and Vike Plock, eds., Revisiting Sylvia Townsend Warner, Special Issue of Literature Compass 11:12 (2014). Contributors: Howard Booth, Kristin Ewing, Ailsa Granne, Chris Hopkins, Mary Joannou, Janet Montefiore, Alex Murray, Vike Plock and Peter Swaab.
11:iii Essays, articles and book chapters

There are many critical articles and book chapters on STW’s work, especially her novels, predominantly addressing Lolly Willowes, with Summer Will Show a good second, and followed by Mr Fortune’s Maggot and The Corner That Held Them. The Journal of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society is a particularly rich resource, and is published online by UCL Press. For full details of criticism and commentary on STW until 2013, consult my online Literature Compass bibliography.

I give below a small selection from these shorter works of criticism, listed in alphabetical order of the authors’ names. Because some authors have more than one essay listed, the format of this section breaks with the chronological bibliographical convention I have followed up to this point.


Janet Montefiore, Canterbury, November 2020